

Dear Senator Osten, Senator Formica, and Representative Walker, Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to ask you to protect funding for the Educational Center for the Arts, the world-class arts high school in New Haven. I attended New Haven public schools through my entire school career, and attended ECA, in the Creative Writing department. There, I developed skills in writing, editing, collaboration, and group process. I firmly believe that these skills were critical to my admission to an elite college and my success there.

After living in other states, I have returned to Connecticut and work at an innovative software company based in New Haven. The nature of our work is constantly changing and our employees need to be creative, adaptable, and proactive. We have deliberately hired a number of employees with a background in the arts, and they have been a huge asset. The energy of the arts community here in Connecticut is a draw for employers and citizens, and the Educational Center for the Arts is a driver of that energy. Please help them continue to benefit our state.

Jacob Mattison

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